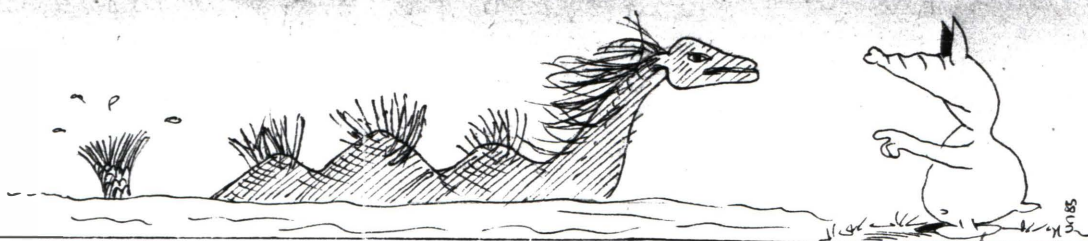


Ulrich Magin's
BILK-MAGAZINE

A NEWSLETTER
FOR WATERMONS-
TER-SIGHTINGS



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BEHEMOTH:

- In Winter 1984/85 a seal was in Loch Ness and was observed several times. More details in Nessletter 68. Rip Hepple, the editor, thinks that the duration of the seal sightings (several minutes) speak against the theorie that a seal caused all the confusion in 1933. My own comment, after having read both the Inverness Courier and The Times of 1933/34, a seal may have been the original stimulus. There were sightings every day, the monster was seen for hours and more, and its course could be followed down the loch. Exactly what happend with the seal of 84/85. To be challenging, I claim that a seal was in Loch Ness in the thirties, and that his fame as monster created all later sightings, which are only misidentifications of wakes, otters, birds. I think this is as likely as a real monster, but do not claim this to be the solution.
- Lake monsters from Canada and the USA in Fortean Times 43,p.6+7.
- In Summer 1976 Swiss TV put a model-monster in Lake Lucerne and created worldwide interest in the new saurian. Before they could announce that it was all a fake, however, other people reported they had seen the monster before: speedboat driver Josef Ulrich claimed he had seen the monster in autumn 1975, and two German divers said they had seen one underwater in spring 76. (Welt, 6.9.76; Süddeutsche Zeitung, 30.8.76). So, we have a definite hoax, yet earlier sightings? Remember that when talking about pre-1933 Nessie sightings.

ISIS:

- On October 29th 1984 German Radio station SWF 3, Baden-Baden, brought a report by its correspondent in Peking. He talked about Chinese press-hoaxes, and one he mentioned was a press-report about a mermaid seen in a Chinese mountain lake, and allegedly photographed. If this happened in 1984 or before was not mentioned.
- Fortean Times 43,p.35:mermaid seen near Macapá, Brasil in 1984. If you believe in the Easter Rabbit, you will find this story easy to believe.

LEVIATHAN:

- In Summer 1974 a seaserpent was seen off New Zealand: "Men of another Japanese fishing boat now in port in Australia said they had seen a sea monster about three years ago apparently chasing fish near New Zealand. They did not mention it at the Time because they did not want to be considered strange." (Daily Telegraph, 26.7.77, 15d) "Already three years before other seaman saw a 'marine monster' in the same area. They said it resembled a plesiosaur." (Süddeutsche Zeitung, 26.7.77, 28a). Remember seamonsters were seen there also in 1971 and 73, and a basking shark was caught there in April 77 and claimed by the Japanese to be a plesiosaur. I would like to know the source of the two 1974-reports to get a better description.
- In Nessletter 68 two seaserpent strandings: 1819-Bombay and 1833-Laredo, Spain. The description of the latter sounds a bit like a leatherback turtle, though no carapace is mentioned.

- A giant 200 feet stingray is said to sink ships at the Phillipines. Details, again, in Fortean Times 43,p.4. It may be the usual seaserpent with humps and neck and mane isn't attractive to tabloid-newspapers anymore, but why do they not invent stories of 200 ft swimming donkies? This would interest me more .

KRAKEN:

- In August 1936 young British pupil Selwyn Guy Phillips dived for sea-urchins (What about giant sea-urchins attacking ships?) near the island of Lerin at Cannes, France. 13-year-old Selwyn was attacked and nearly drowned by a giant octopus, who was hiding behind a rock, seized Selwyn's leg and pulled him underwater. 55-year-old swimming instructor Captain Anthony Dudley, also British, heard the shouts of the boy, dived after the monster and killed it with a small knife. The Octopus is called 'giant' by the source, Neue Mannheimer Zeitung, 25.8.1936, but no exact size is given, so that I can't decide if this was indeed a monster or an ordinary cephalopod. The NMZ gives the source of the story as a London newspaper of August 22nd 1936, but I couldn't find any report about the incident in The Times, which the NMZ usually quoted. Does anybody know more?

- "A giant octopus killed a fisherman near the Phillipine island of Cebu. The victim was found by other fishermen, his arms had still scars from the suckers." (Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich, 25.10.1979, p.64c) There are several other sightings of giant octopus from Indonesia, but, again, the report gives no idea of size.

MARINE LIFE:

- A 20ft White shark killed a female swimmer at the Southaustralian coast, by biting her into two pieces. Only a rubber-fin of the woman was later found. A fisherman, who witnesses the scene, told reporters: 'It was the most horrible thing I've seen in all my life.'

MARINE MYSTERIES:

- An aeroplane fell into the sea off Brighton. At least this was what many witnesses observed. But although the water was only feet-deep at the place of the supposed crash, no remains were found. I remember that I've read similar stories in several fairy-books about the Bermuda-Triangle. In my opinion this is sufficient proof for the opinion that the Bermuda-Triangle extends as far as England, and should be called Brighton-Triangle instead. (Times, 13.1.1934, 10f)

- Some USOs (unidentified submarines):

April 1939: unidentified submarine seen by fishermen and police in Halifax Harbor, Nova Scotia, Canada. Officials later declared it was only a trawler. (Neue Mannheimer Zeitung, 24.4.39, 9c; Frankfurter Zeitung, 22.4.39, 1b and 23.4.39, 2d)

1.7.1976: a Norwegian trawler, the 'Sjoevik' caught in its net in the Barents Sea an USO. 'After the Sjoevik had been pulled astern at high speed, an unmarked submarine surfaced. Then several of its crew came on deck and cut the trawl wire which was caught in its fins.' The Times, 15.7.1976, 5g -probably Soviet.

August 1976: place- Tsushima, Japan. witnesses: 2 trawlers. Repetition of the adventure of the Norwegian trawler. USO probably Soviet.

Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, 27.8.76, 5f.

15.3.1983: Bornholm, Baltic Sea. This time the trawler was German, but the incident happened in the same manner as the latter two.

Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, 16.3.83, 7e.

END!

Please send in new sightings you find in the press or in books.

Address: Ulrich Magin, Stuhlbruderhofstraße 4, 6704 Mutterstadt, West Germany.